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TITLE: Increasing Knowledge about HIV/AIDS Grant Opportunities: A Capacity Building Intervention in New York State (NYS)

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ISSUE: Community-based organizations (CBOs) across the country are in crisis due to shrinking resources while the number of persons living with HIV continues to increase. An immediate goal is continued development of infrastructure and capacity of CBOs to deliver effective HIV prevention interventions in a climate of dwindling resources.

SETTING: HIV/AIDS providers and CBOs throughout NYS.

PROJECT: The NYSDOH AIDS Institute's Division of HIV Prevention has a strong program of HIV prevention capacity building, technical assistance (TA) and training. A Grants Development Specialist (GDS) was hired to assist CBOs in obtaining information on public and private funding opportunities. The GDS serves as a centralized access point for informal grantsmanship TA, letters of support and TA workshops for NYS-based CBOs and HIV/AIDS providers. An information bulletin entitled *HIV/AIDS Grant Opportunities* disseminates HIV/AIDS funding information based on identified community needs. Interviews were conducted to identify community needs and create an overall plan to assist in grants procurement for HIV/AIDS providers.

RESULTS: Over 500 HIV/AIDS providers and CBOs throughout NYS receive *HIV/AIDS Grant Opportunities* in hard copy, with another 60 receiving it electronically. To date, approximately 50 (10%) 'bounceback' surveys were received, all with "good" and the "excellent" ratings of the comprehensiveness of identifying grant opportunities, clarity and design, and usefulness in meeting community grant-related needs. Identified priority areas for grant procurement for HIV/AIDS providers include: evaluation, technical assistance, training capacity building and enhancement of programs and technology transfer.

LESSONS LEARNED: Lessons learned for optimizing coordination and improving access to funding included: 1) distribution of the *HIV/AIDS Grant Opportunities* using multiple methods (i.e., hard copies, electronic mail, web page) can broaden availability; 2) networking among CBOs, HIV/AIDS providers, the AIDS Institute, other agencies and researchers can identify possibilities for enhancing HIV prevention in NYS; 3) new partnerships can broaden eligibility for public and private resources; and 4) collaboration with other GDSs enables sharing of proven and promising strategies for attaining funding.

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